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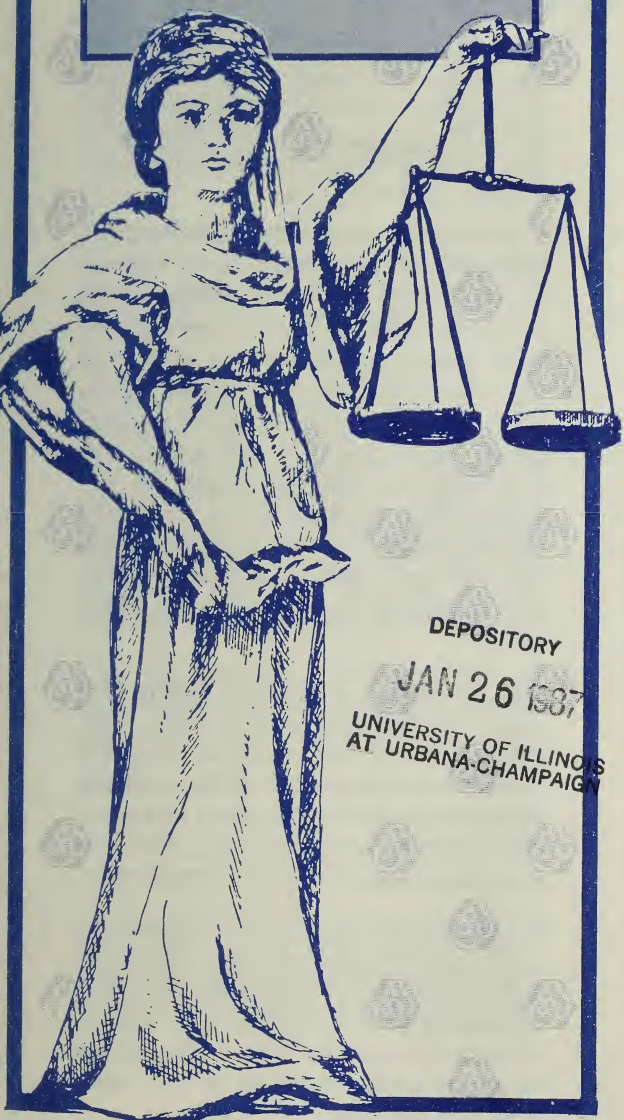
Public Aid and Civil Rights



DEPOSITORY
JAN 26 1987
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois Department of Public Aid

Gregory L. Coler, Director

The regulations and laws affecting the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Illinois Department of Public Aid conform to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by providing that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, religious belief, political affiliation, sex, handicap or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Discrimination in the Food Stamp Program is prohibited under the Food Stamp Act of 1977. Furthermore, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Food Stamp applicants and recipients shall not be discriminated against in any aspect of the Food Stamp Program including (but not limited to) the issuance of coupons, the conduct of fair hearings or the conduct of any other program service.

The Illinois Department of Public Aid is responsible for compliance with civil rights requirements in the administration of the following programs:

Assistance to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled

Aid to Families with Dependent Children

Refugee/Cuban Entrant Repatriate Assistance

Project Chance - G A

Aid to the Medically Indigent

Medical Assistance

Food Stamps

Therefore, the Department of Public Aid shall not on the grounds of race, color, sex, handicap, religious belief, political affiliation, national origin, and age:

...deny any individual any aid, care, services, or other benefits provided under the public assistance programs;

...provide any aid, care, services, or other benefits to an individual which is different, or provided in a different manner, from that provided to others under the public assistance programs;

...subject an individual to segregation or separate treatment in any manner related to his/her receipt of any aid, care, services, or other benefits provided under the programs;

...restrict any person in any way from having the same advantages or privileges as all other persons receiving any aid, care, services, or other benefits provided under the public aid programs;

...treat an individual differently from others in determining whether he/she satisfies any eligibility or other requirement or condition which individuals must meet in order to receive any aid, care, services, or other benefits provided under the programs;

...deny or offer any person an opportunity different from that offered others in any program or service. This includes the opportunity to participate in education, training, and community work relief programs.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

An applicant or recipient who feels he/she has not been treated with courtesy, consideration, and respect by a specific Department employee may file a grievance with the Department. If the grievance is filed within 60 days of the occurrence, a hearing will be held between the client, the client's representative (if any), the employee, the employee's representative (if any), and a designated Department staff person. A grievance may be filed on a form obtained from the local office.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

A complaint of alleged discrimination may be filed against a Department employee, or any other individual, group agency or facility. The complaint may be filed by a client, a Department employee or any other individual.

Persons wishing to complain concerning alleged discrimination by Department of Public Aid staff or other agencies, institutions, organizations, or individuals, may do so in writing to the appropriate local office of the Department of Public Aid or to the Department of Public Aid, Chief, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Jesse B. Harris Bldg., 100 S. Grand Ave., E., Springfield, Illinois 62762

Any applicant or recipient, or any person acting on behalf of the applicant or recipient with his/her knowledge and consent, may file a complaint by letter or on Form DPA 185 - *Complaint Concerning Alleged Discrimination*. Copies of this form may be obtained at any county Department of Public Aid office.

The Department will investigate all complaints promptly and take corrective action when the findings warrant.

The Director of the Department will review the action taken on complaints. The one who filed the complaint will be informed in writing of the disposition of his complaint. Persons may, if they wish, file a complaint of discrimination with the Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.

Food Stamp recipients or applicants may also submit their complaints in writing to: Administrator, FNS, Washington, D.C., 20250.

Further information is available at your local public aid office.

ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT MANUALS

Copies of the Categorical Assistance Manuals are maintained in each regional and local office and are available for public inspection during regular office hours. The regional and local offices may provide, without charge, copies of pages of the Manuals when requested by individuals, agencies or organizations. Persons requesting copies of major portions of the Manuals must, however, forward such requests in writing to the Administrator, Division of Policy and Planning, Jesse B. Harris Bldg., 100 S. Grand Ave., E., Springfield, Illinois 62762.

The Illinois Department of Public Aid does not discriminate in admission to, or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, and the U.S. Constitution.

Illinois Department of Public Aid
Jesse B. Harris Building
100 S. Grand Ave., East
Springfield, IL 62762

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